



J. TYLER McCAULEY
AUDITOR-CONTROLLER

**COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES
DEPARTMENT OF AUDITOR-CONTROLLER**

KENNETH HAHN HALL OF ADMINISTRATION
500 WEST TEMPLE STREET, ROOM 525
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90012-2766
PHONE: (213) 974-8301 FAX: (213) 626-5427

September 28, 2005

TO: Supervisor Gloria Molina, Chair
Supervisor Yvonne B. Burke
Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky
Supervisor Don Knabe
Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich

FROM: J. Tyler McCauley 
Auditor-Controller

SUBJECT: **GROUP HOME PROGRAM MONITORING REPORT – BOYS
REPUBLIC, ORANGE COUNTY RESIDENCE GROUP HOME**

We have completed a review of Orange County Residence (Group Home or Agency) operated by Boys Republic. The Group Home contracts with the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) and the Probation Department (Probation).

The Group Home is a twenty-bed facility, which provides care for boys ages 14-17 years who exhibit behavioral, social, and emotional difficulties. At the time of the monitoring visit, the Group Home was providing services for six Los Angeles County Probation children, two Orange County children, one Alameda County child, one Riverside County child, and one San Bernardino County Probation child.

Orange County Residence Group Home is located in Orange County.

Scope of Review

The purpose of the review is to determine whether the Agency is providing the services as outlined in their Program Statement. Additionally, the review covers basic child safety and licensing issues, and includes an evaluation of the Agency's Program Statement, internal policies and procedures, child case records, a facility inspection, and interviews with children placed in the Group Home at the time of the review. Interviews with children are designed to obtain their perspectives on the program

"To Enrich Lives Through Effective and Caring Service"

services provided by the Agency, and to ensure adherence to the Foster Youth Bill of Rights.

Summary of Findings

Generally, the Agency is providing the services as outlined in their Program Statement. However, the Group Home needs to remove the broken piece of equipment and repair the ceiling in the children's dining room/study room; clean the downstairs bathroom and repair the broken bathroom stall door; clean the stove/oven and the refrigerators in the kitchen; properly attach the power supply pipe to the wall in one bedroom; and develop comprehensive Needs and Services Plans that are specific, measurable, attainable, realistic, time limited, and include long and short-term goals.

Attached is a detailed report of the review.

Review of Report

We discussed our report with the Agency's management. In response to the recommendations made in the report, the Agency's management completed a corrective action plan (attached) which we approved. We thank the management and staff for their cooperation during our review.

If you have any questions, please contact me, or have your staff contact Mike Pirolo at (626) 293-1110.

JTM:MP:CC:bg
http://auditor.co.la.ca.us/group_home.asp

Attachment

c: David E. Janssen, Chief Administrative Officer
David Sanders, Ph.D., Director, DCFS
Paul Higa, Chief Probation Officer
Max Scott, Executive Director, Boys Republic
Public Information Office
Audit Committee

**Boys Republic
Orange County Residence
206 West 15th Street
Santa Ana, California 92701
Phone: (909) 628-1217
License Number: 300600097
Rate Classification Level: 4**

I. Facility and Environment

Method of assessment – Observation

Comments:

Orange County Residence is a large facility located in a quiet community. The exterior of the Group Home is well maintained. The front and back yards are clean, and adequately landscaped.

Overall, the interior of the Group Home is well maintained. The common quarters are neat and clean. There is adequate furniture and lighting in the Group Home. The Group Home provides a home-like environment. However, there are a few areas in need of improvement. In the children's dining/study room, there is a broken piece of equipment that needs to be removed and the ceiling needs to be repaired. The children's downstairs bathroom is dirty, has an unpleasant odor, and one of the stall doors is broken. The kitchen stove/oven is dirty with old food, and the inside of the refrigerators are not clean.

Overall, children's bedrooms are well maintained. The rooms are clean and orderly, and have age-appropriate personalized decorations. There is adequate furniture, lighting, and storage space. Window coverings and window screens are in good repair. The mattresses are comfortable, and the beds all have a full complement of linens. Children's sleeping arrangements are appropriate. However, in bedroom four, an electrical power supply pipe is not properly attached to the wall.

The Group Home maintains age appropriate and accessible recreational equipment. There are also board games, a TV, and a DVD player. Books and resource materials, including a computer with a variety of programs, are also available.

The Group Home maintains a sufficient supply of perishable and non perishable foods.

Recommendations

1. Boys Republic management:

- a. Remove the broken equipment and repair the ceiling in the children's dining room/study room.**

- b. Clean the downstairs bathroom.**
- c. Repair the broken bathroom stall door.**
- d. Clean the stove/oven in the kitchen.**
- e. Clean the refrigerators in the kitchen.**
- f. Properly attach the power supply pipe to the wall in bedroom four.**

II. Program Services

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and interviews

Sample size for interviews: Two

Comments:

Children meet the Group Home's population criteria as outlined in their Program Statement. Children are assessed for needed services within thirty days of placement.

The treatment team develops and implements the Needs and Services Plans (NSPs) with input from the child. The NSPs are current; however, the NSPs are not comprehensive, and do not include long and short-term goals.

Case files reflect adequate documentation to show that children are receiving treatment services as identified in their NSPs.

Recommendation

- 2. Boys Republic management develop comprehensive Needs and Services Plans that are specific, measurable, attainable, realistic, time limited, and include long and short-term goals.**

III. Educational and Emancipation Services

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and interviews

Sample size for interviews: Two

Comments:

Children are attending school. Children are provided with educational support and resources to meet their educational needs, and are progressing satisfactorily in school. The Group Home's program includes the development of children's daily living, self-

help, and survival skills.

Children are provided with opportunities to participate in emancipation and vocational programs as appropriate.

Recommendations

There are no recommendations for this section.

IV. Recreation and Activities

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and interviews

Sample size for interviews: Two

Comments:

The Group Home provides children with sufficient recreational activities, and leisure time. Children are given opportunities to participate in planning activities.

Children are allowed to participate in extra-curricular, enrichment, and social activities in which they have an interest.

The Group Home provides transportation to and from the activities.

Recommendations

There are no recommendations for this section.

V. Psychotropic Medication

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents

Comments:

According to the Agency's management, there are no residents receiving psychotropic medications. This information is appropriately documented.

Children are aware of their right to refuse medication.

Recommendations

There are no recommendations for this section.

VI. Personal Rights

Method of assessment –Interviews with children

Sample size for interviews: Two

Comments:

Children are informed about the Group Home's policies and procedures. Children report that they feel safe in the Group Home, and are provided with appropriate staff supervision. Children express satisfaction with the quality of their interactions with staff, and report that staff treats them with respect and dignity.

Children report that they are assigned chores that are reasonable and not too demanding. Children are allowed to have private visitors, to make and receive personal telephone calls, and to send and receive unopened correspondence and mail. Children are able to attend religious services of their choice.

Children report that the discipline policies are consistently enforced and that there are fair and appropriate consequences for inappropriate behavior.

Children report satisfaction with meals and snacks.

Children receive voluntary medical, dental, and psychiatric care.

Recommendations

There are no recommendations for this section.

VII. Clothing and Allowance

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and interviews

Sample size for interviews: Two

Comments:

The Group Home provides appropriate clothing, items of necessity, and the required \$50 monthly clothing allowance to children. Children are given opportunities to select their own clothes. Clothing provided to children is of good quality and of sufficient quantity.

The Group Home provides children with the required minimum base allowance. Children are permitted to spend their allowances as they choose.

The Group Home provides children with adequate personal care items.

Children are encouraged and assisted in creating and maintaining photo albums/life books.

Recommendations

There are no recommendations for this section.

Boys Republic

3493 Grand Ave., Chino Hills, CA 91709
(909) 628 1217

June 30, 2005

Carla Carr, Group Home Ombudsman
Department of Controller, Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
500 W. Temple Street, Room 515-A
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Dear Ms. Carr,

Consistent with your department's instructions dated June 13, 2005 pertaining to the group home monitoring report completed by the Auditor-Controller's Office on the Boys Republic **Orange County Residence**, we have made the identified corrections and implemented a Corrective Action Plan as follows:

- The ceiling in the children's dining room and study room has been repaired.
- The downstairs bathroom has been cleaned and sanitized.
- The water has been removed from the bathroom floor.
- The broken bathroom stall has been repaired.
- The stove/oven in the kitchen has been cleaned.
- The refrigerators in the kitchen have been cleaned and will soon be replaced with brand new refrigerators
- The power supply pipe has been properly attached to the wall in bedroom four.
- Comprehensive Needs and Services Plans have been developed that are specific, measurable, attainable, realistic, time limited and include long and short term goals.



-Benjamin Disraeli

The Needs and Services Plans will be reviewed regularly to ensure that all such plans meet the stated requirements. In addition, regular staff inspections will be conducted during clean up evaluations to ensure any cleaning and repairs will occur in a timely manner. Jeff Johansson, Assistant Residence Director will be responsible to implement this plan. Garry Hodge, Residence Director, will act as the quality assurance person responsible for monitoring to ensure that the corrective action remains implemented and is working as intended.

We are grateful for the visit and express appreciation for the recommendations made. It is helpful to have individuals walk through our facility and view things we perhaps fail to notice in our day-to-day work environment.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Lance Parks', with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

Lance Parks
Associate Director

LP/lm
